

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05 RSC-01

CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01

USIA-15 COME-00 FEA-01 INT-05 AGR-10 /102 W

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R 291541Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8120

INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

UNCLAS MONTEVIDEO 0309

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XR, ETRD, UY, OAS

SUBJ: BUENOS AIRES MFM: GOU REACTION TO POSTPONEMENT

1. IN A PRESS CONFERENCE LAST NIGHT (JANUARY 28), REPORTED IN THE MORNING PRESS, FONMII BLANCO TOLD REPORTERS THE GOU WAS NOT IN AGREEMENT WITH THE DECISION TO POSTPONE THE BUENOS AIRES MFM. BLANCO SAID THE GOU RECOGNIZED ARGENTINA'S RIGHT, AS HOST, TO POSTPONE THE MEETING, BUT GOU BELIEVES MFM WOULD HAVE BEEN THE BEST FORUM TO DISCUSS THE TRADE ACT. THE MFM WAS THE PLACE TO LOOK FOR POSITIVE SOLUTIONS, BLANCO ADDED.

2. BLANCO ALSO POINTED OUT THAT URUGUAY HAD EVIDENCED ITS

SOLIDARITY WITH REGARD TO THE TRADE ACT AND IT HOPED TO RECEIVE THE SAME SUPPORT FOR ITS CLAIMS AND POINTS OF VIEW ON THE INCREASE IN PETROLEUM COSTS AND LOSS OF EXPORT MARKETS FOR MEAT.

"WE HAVEN'T VACILLATED IN CENSURING THE DISCRIMINATORY FEATURES OF THE NORTH AMERICAN TRADE ACT," BLANCO SAID, "BUT NEITHER CAN WE HIDE FROM THE WORLD THE FACT THAT OUR BALANCE OF PAYMENTS HAS A DEFICIT OF OVER 100 MILLION DOLLARS PROVOKED BY THE RISE IN PETROLEUM

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PRICES."

3. FINALLY, BLANCO SAID HE DOUBTED THE OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY COULD SATISFACTORILY DEAL WITH THE QUESTIONS TO BE DISCUSSED AT THE BUENOS AIRES MFM SINCE AT THE OAS THERE COULD BE AN ATMOSPHERE OF CONFRONTATION.

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